



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER OLATHE, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING COUNTERFEIT MONEY

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Steven Dust**, 25, formerly of Olathe, Kansas, currently of San Antonio, Texas, entered a guilty plea on July 14, 2003, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to one count of making counterfeit money.

Melgren said that in April 2003 the Johnson County Sheriff's office began investigating the report of someone passing counterfeit U.S. currency in Stillwell, Kansas. During this investigation officers learned that Dust had provided others with counterfeit \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills. On April 30, 2003, law enforcement officers searched Dust's apartment and found approximately \$6,780 in counterfeit \$5 and \$10 bills in uncut sheets. Dust admitted at his plea that between April 19, 2003, and April 29, 2003, he made a counterfeit \$10 Federal Reserve Note.

Dust faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 29, 2003.

Co-defendant **Eric Wright**, 19, Overland Park, Kansas, is charged with two counts of passing counterfeit \$20 Federal Reserve Notes on April 21, 2003, in Stillwell, Kansas. If convicted, Wright faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. Wright is set for trial on August 5, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Johnson County Sheriff's office and the U.S. Secret Service in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.